



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BUDE/STRATTON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1972

Health Area Office,  
Launceston,  
Cornwall.

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.  
Medical Officer of Health



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,294
Population	5,630
No. of separate dwellings occupied	2,310
Rateable Value	£243,837
Product of lp. rate	£2,400

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
<u>Live Births</u>				
Legitimate	60	37	23	11.4
Illegitimate	4	3	1	
<u>Stillbirths</u>	1	1	-	15 (Rate per 1,000 total births)
<u>Deaths (all causes)</u>	102	46	56	18.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal and post-abortive )	
sepsis )	N I L
Other Puerperal Causes )	

Infant Mortality (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)

2	2	-	31
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	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8	7	15
Measles (all ages)	-	-	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-	-

# THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF  
HIS MAJESTY  
GEORGE THE THIRD  
BY  
JAMES O'BRYEN

IN FIVE VOLUMES.  
VOLUME THE FIRST.  
FROM THE BIRTH OF HIS MAJESTY TO THE  
DEATH OF HIS FATHER.  
LONDON:  
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MDCCLXXIII.

THE HISTORY OF THE  
REIGN OF  
HIS MAJESTY  
GEORGE THE THIRD  
BY  
JAMES O'BRYEN

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban  
District Council of Bude/Stratton

Health Area Office,  
Launceston.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972.

The vital statistics for the year show a total of 102 deaths, ten more than for the previous year. Live births numbered 64, compared with 56 in 1971. This continued the adverse balance of deaths over births, but, in spite of this, the population increased from 5540 to 5630, as shown by the Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population. This must indicate a favourable movement of population into the Urban District. Heart disease took its usual place at the head of the list of causes of death, followed by cerebrovascular disease and cancer, in that order. Two infant deaths and one stillbirth were recorded during the year.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was extremely low.

In the environmental field, the matter of most importance during the year was the further investigation of the Council's Consulting Engineers into the sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements for the Urban District. Their report on the system of sewage disposal showed that the investigations indicated that the physical condition of the sea bed militated against the scheme of disposal by a long sea outfall, as previously conditionally proposed, and the recommendation was made for a scheme involving an inland treatment plant, with disposal of the treated effluent through the existing outfall.

I must express my thanks to Mr. Durston, the Council's Senior Public Health Inspector, for the valuable assistance he has given in all aspects of our work together, and in the preparation of this report, for which he has supplied the bulk of the information dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the District. The Council's other Departments have continued their willing co-operation. I am grateful to the General Practitioners of the District for their continued co-operation.

Once again, it is a pleasure to express my appreciation of the help and encouragement I have received from the Council, and, in particular, from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health



### Natural and Social Conditions

Area (in acres) 4,294. The Urban District of Bude/Stratton is partly a health and seaside resort and partly agricultural in character. It is bounded on its western border by the Atlantic Ocean, the coast-line in this particular part of North Cornwall running almost due north and south.

Whilst the hinterland is undulating and hilly in character, contour heights seldom rise over 500 feet and this no doubt is in part the explanation for the exceedingly moderate rainfall figures (average annual rainfall for 20 years 33.74"), which in view of exposure to the prevailing south westerly winds, might be expected to be considerably higher.

Population - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1972 to be 5,630, an increase of 90 on the previous year. In 1972 there were 64 births and 102 deaths, 38 more deaths than births.

Deaths The total number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 102, compared with 92 in 1971. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 18.1, compared with 16.6 in 1971. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1968	95	53	42	18.0
1969	79	31	48	14.8
1970	95	46	49	17.9
1971	92	46	46	16.6
1972	102	46	56	18.1

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.62 for this District.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 11.2 which may be compared with that of 12.1 for England and Wales.

Births The number of live births assigned to this District was 64 compared with 56 in 1971. The rate per thousand of the population is 11.4. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.41) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 16.1 for this District compares with 14.8 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths There was one stillbirth during 1972.





Illegitimate Births      There were four illegitimate births assigned to the District during the year, compared with eight in 1971. Shown as a proportion of the total number of live births, this represents 6 per cent.

Maternal Mortality      No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

Infant Mortality      There were two infant deaths in 1972.

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
M	Under 1 day	Multiple Congenital Abnormalities
M	Under 1 day	Pulmonary Atelectasis

N.B. Vital Statistics      It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to another, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.



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MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 65 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1967

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasn, Stomach	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasn, Intestine	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasn, Lung, Bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasn, Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasn, Uterus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasn, Prostate	1	-	1
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	2	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	20	34
Other Forms of Heart Disease	3	7	10
Cerebrovascular Disease	7	9	16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	3	6
Pneumonia	2	4	6
Intestinal Obstruction & Hernia	2	-	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All Other External Causes	1	-	1
	46	56	102



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district, and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

### County Council Services

- I Health Department The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district:-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
  - (b) Health Visiting Health Visitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine this work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as school nurses.
  - (c) Dental Clinic Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic held at the Castle, Bude.
  - (d) Vaccination and Immunisation Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and for poliomyelitis vaccination are provided by the supply of materials to the family doctor, or at school, in the case of reinforcing doses.  
  
Vaccination against measles is now provided for susceptible children up to the age of 15 years and a limited scheme of vaccination against German measles, for older girls of secondary school age, has been introduced.
  - (e) Ambulance Service A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utilising sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.



(f) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care

A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the home treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor.

Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children.

Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, while health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

II Education Department As local Education Authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following:-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils  
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils  
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils  
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education  
Treatment clinic at the Castle, Bude:  
Dental Clinics each Tuesday and Friday  
Child Guidance, by arrangement.

III Social Services Department The Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970, which resulted from the recommendations of the Committee on Local Authority and Allied Personal Services (the Seebohm Report), presented to Parliament in 1968, came into full operation on 1st April, 1971. This Act required the County Council to set up a Social Services Committee and appoint a Director of Social Services, who is now established at Old County Hall, Truro.

The Department is responsible for the following:-

All duties formerly carried out by the Children's Department  
All duties formerly carried out by the Mental Health and Welfare Section of the Health and Welfare Department  
Family casework with the physically and mentally disabled.  
Day centres, clubs, adult training centres, workshops and residential accommodation for the above  
The day care of children under the age of five years, playgroups, etc. day nurseries and child minding  
The care of unsupported mothers, including residential care  
Home Help Service.







The Department retains a link with the Health Department in that the County Medical Officer remains Medical Adviser to the County Council, including the Social Services Committee, and the Deputy County Medical Officer deals with day-to-day medical matters affecting the Social Services Department.

The Social Workers for the District work from Hendra, Dunheved Road, Launceston.

Hospital Services The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Stratton Cottage Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy Hospital or Tehidy Chest Hospital. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at Stratton Hospital, Bude, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Dawfield Hospital, Holsworthy. The Chest Clinic is held at Stratton Hospital. An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Castle, Bude. A Specialist Ante-Natal Clinic is held in Launceston each week.

#### Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter and Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are submitted.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

### WATER SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board are now the water undertakers for the whole of the Urban District.

The Board has continued the practice of stabilising the pressures in the low-lying parts of the District by the use of a pressure reducing valve at Hillhead, near the storage reservoir. This practice has obviated large fluctuations of pressure in the town of Bude, with a consequent reduction in wastage from ball-valves and similar fittings.

This year, a cold but dry Spring, was followed by a drier than average Summer, and the level of the water in the Tamar Lake Reservoir reached an all-time low. Despite this, the Board maintained a supply to the District, although severe restrictions had to be applied.

Routine sampling for bacteriological examination is carried out by Officers of the North Devon Water Board, with occasional check samples by the Council's Public Health Inspector. The results of recorded samples, a summary of which is given below, are very gratifying and showed a considerable improvement on those for the previous year.

#### Summary of bacteriological reports Tap water samples (Filtered and chlorinated)

<u>Class 1</u>	<u>Class 2</u>	<u>Class 3</u>	<u>Class 4</u>
100	1	1	1

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The scheme for the improvement of the sewerage of Bude, and of the method of sewage disposal, continued to receive active consideration by the Consulting Engineers during the year. An additional Marine Survey was undertaken, and the results of this survey gave rise to serious doubts as to the advisability of constructing a long sea outfall. As a result of these findings the Consulting Engineers turned their investigations in the direction of a land treatment works, with the Council's approval. By the end of the year considerable investigation had been carried out as to the suitability of various sites for an inland treatment works. It now appears that, subject to planning approval, a suitable site for these works has been found. It is hoped that this approval will be forthcoming, and that details of the new treatment works will be available sometime during 1973.

In the meantime minor alterations continued to be carried out to the sewerage of the District, mainly for the purpose of separating storm water from the foul sewers. This has helped to alleviate a considerable strain on the existing sewers.



PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The new Rodent Operator, who took over from the previous Operator on his retirement, has given very satisfactory service, and the District continues to enjoy considerable freedom from infestation.

During the year the new Operator conducted a test baiting of the sewerage systems, with particular emphasis on the sewers of the new estates which have developed in recent years. Very little infestation was found.

In addition to the treatment of the sewerage systems, all other Council properties have received surveys, and treatments where necessary, as have private and business premises.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are at present in the District the following licensed sites:-

- (a) A small holiday site for 4 caravans, and for tented accommodation at Bush.
- (b) A holiday site for 30 caravans and 75 tents at Lynstone Farm.
- (c) A residential site for 15 caravans, and for tented accommodation at Grenville Gate.
- (d) A holiday site for 185 caravans, and for tented accommodation at Grenville Gate.

All the sites are now provided with flush sanitation and main water supply, including a small holiday site at Bush for four caravans. The owner intends to make an application to the planning authority for extension of the site, and permission to increase the number of caravans stationed on the site, but this has not occurred during the current season.

The owner of site (d) has during the closed season completed two 2-story blocks of permanent chalets. These consist of one block of 8 chalets and one block of 6, a total of 14 in all. These chalets replace some of the existing worn out caravans.

Taking the season as a whole the weather was very suitable for camping, and indeed for all holidaymakers. As a consequence camping sites were filled to capacity, and there was a marked increase in tented camping.





Speaking generally, the operators of licensed sites continue to exhibit great keenness to maintain high standards, both in the provision of facilities, and in the general standard of cleanliness and hygiene.

Collection of refuse is carried out on site by the site operators, much of the combustible refuse being burnt immediately. The remainder of the refuse is collected by the Council's refuse lorry at times of collection normal to the respective sites. An exception occurs at site (d), where the operator conveys his refuse, collected in paper sacks, to the refuse tip in his own vehicles.

During the season there was an increase in the amount of casual camping, but this was largely spasmodic, and no serious nuisances occurred.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Cornwall County Council control most of the roads in the district, but the work of street cleansing is carried out mainly by the staff of the Urban District Council.

As reported last year, the method of disposal of domestic refuse continues to be by means of burning the refuse on the face of the existing tip. This system continues to work very well, and the rodent and fly infestation has been considerably reduced. In addition, the available space for tipping is decreasing very slowly indeed.

The collection vehicle in current use is a Dennis "Paxit" Series IIC refuse collection vehicle, of 24 cubic yards capacity, with intermittent compression loading.

The slightly larger overall dimensions of the vehicle have necessitated some slight adjustments to the collection rounds, where the reduced manoeuvrability was a handicap, but householders have co-operated and a satisfactory compromise has been reached. On the credit side, the increased capacity of the vehicle, and its more efficient compression have reduced the journeys to the tipping area, on the average by one trip a day.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

Section 47 - No action

Section 50 - No action





HOUSING

During the year the Berries Avenue Development was continued and the remaining 19 houses of the original allocation of 40 were completed during the year and occupied. It is to be regretted that the additional allocation for that year was not taken up by the Council, and, on completing the 19 houses which were under construction, no further building of Council houses took place. The number of applications submitted when any existing accommodation becomes available for letting indicates that there is still a considerable demand for this type of accommodation. In an area where the average weekly wage is very low, the Council are faced with the problem of providing accommodation of a type which is within the means of those who need it. Discussions have taken place on the advisability of adjusting the rents of existing properties, which are relatively low, to bolster the rents of any new houses which may be built.

The slum problem is not a serious one numerically in the District, most unfit properties being dealt with individually when existing Council accommodation becomes available for re-housing the tenants. During the past few years, the position has also been eased by the improvement of many of the older houses either privately, or by means of standard and discretionary improvement grants which the Council is prepared to allocate in appropriate cases. The situation would be further helped if the Council were to provide a limited number of houses for rehousing tenants in unfit properties.

In programming the future housing requirements of the District, the Council has very much in mind, not only the requirements of the local inhabitants, but also the possible demands of personnel brought into the District with the development of light industry and a Government undertaking, a development which appears to be imminent, and has, in fact, already started to a limited degree.

Technicalities have hindered the Council's scheme for the provision of land for private residential development, as an extension to the Hawthorn Avenue/ Manor Road private development. However, other private development sites have progressed, thanks largely to development by contractors from outside the District, and it is gratifying again to be able to report an increase in the number of private houses completed during the year.

Comparative table of private housing development

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Houses completed during the year	55	47	37	46
Houses being erected at the end of the year	56	36	34	30



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Premises and Clean Food

The number and types of premises in the District are:-

Grocers	..	..	..	..	12
Restaurants and hotel kitchens	..	..	..	..	45
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	..	5
Butchers	..	..	..	..	5
Dairies	..	..	..	..	5
Ice-cream dealers	..	..	..	..	25
Boarding houses	..	..	..	..	55
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	10
School canteens	..	..	..	..	3

No. of inspections of registered food premises .. 68

No. of inspections of other food premises .. 111

Food Hygiene Regulations

In a District where the most important industry, at the moment, is the holiday industry, the seasonal character of the demands upon the catering industry is its greatest problem. Largely almost at a standstill during the winter months, in the holiday season it is subjected to considerable pressures, which tend to build up as the season progresses. These pressures, together with the largely transient staffs which are available, create problems which, though not unique, are certainly not felt to any comparable extent in the centres of large population. Education in hygienic methods of food handling in lecture form, which could only take place in the off-season, has by then lost much of its interest for personnel who have found other employment, and perhaps may not return to the catering trade. In addition much imported labour is employed, and is likely to have left the District during the close season; this is particularly true of key personnel.

However, the Department does feel that prevention is better than cure, and inspections and advisory visits are an important part of the work of the year. Such visits have indicated that the larger the establishment the more vigilance is needed. This is, no doubt, in part explained by the relative remoteness of management staffs in such establishments. In spite of these difficulties, in general, good standards are maintained, and in other cases informal comment and advice have been generally acceptable to management staffs; no formal action has been necessary.

During the season a considerable amount of attention was directed towards some of the larger establishments; and one hotel in particular started an extensive programme of kitchen improvement during the closed season.



## Milk

Brucella Abortus By an arrangement with the County Medical Officer, samples of raw milk from producer-retailers in the area are taken by the County Public Health Inspector, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Truro, for examination. Bulk samples are first subjected to the Milk Ring Test, and, if positive, samples from the individual cows in the herd are submitted for culture for brucella abortus.

There is only one producer-retailer in the District. As the results of the routine bulk Milk Ring Tests were consistently negative, no samples from individual cows were submitted for culture.

Meat Inspection Since the end of 1970 there have been no slaughterhouses in the District. Meat inspection is therefore confined to routine visits to the local butchers.

## Disposal of condemned meat and other foods

Condemned meat, both from the slaughterhouse and butchers' shops, is removed by a contractor, who sterilises and processes it, and converts it into animal feeding stuffs.

Tinned and similar goods are taken to the Council's refuse tip and buried.

## Ice-Cream(Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959

There is, within the District, only one manufacturer of ice-cream. This firm became established in 1971, and its business has developed rapidly, as a wholesale supplier, both within, and far outside the District. The standards of hygiene and of equipment used are very high, and results of Methylene Blue Tests in respect of this ice-cream are very satisfactory.

The remainder of the ice cream sold retail within the district is manufactured by one other Cornish Company and by nationally known firms who operate from outside the district.

Sampling of ice-cream was carried out extensively during the season. The general overall standard of the results was extremely satisfactory, being considerably better than that for the previous year. The number of Grade 4 samples was extremely low and encountered very early in the season in respect of loose ice-cream. After advisory visits this Grade of Report was not repeated. A table of results is appended below.

## Summary of Results of Samples - 1972

### Provisional Methylene Blue Test

Grade 1	-	79.77%
Grade 2	-	17.83%
Grade 3	-	0.00%
Grade 4	-	2.40%





FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Classified list of factories as at 31st December, 1972

	<u>Nature of employment</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-power</u>
1.	Food manufacture	3	-
2.	Wearing apparel		
	(a) Boots and shoes	3	-
	(b) Outfitting	1	-
3.	Carpentry, Joinery and saw mills	6	-
4.	Garages repair shops and engineers	13	-
5.	Laundries	-	-
6.	Gas works	1	-
7.	Monumental masons	-	1
8.	Plumbers	-	2
9.	Dairies	-	-
10.	Photography	3	-
11.	Printing works	2	-
12.	Electrical engineers	2	1
13.	Cabinet makers and upholsterers	-	2

Prescribed Particulars of the Factories Act, 1961, are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/60 of the Ministry of Health.

Summary of Public Health Inspector's inspections, etc.

This is shown in Table IV, page 20





PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following:- Cholera, plague, relapsing fever, typhus, smallpox, acute encephalitis, acute meningitis, acute poliomyelitis, anthrax, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, diphtheria, infective jaundice, leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, measles, ophthalmia neonatorum, paratyphoid fever, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, yellow fever and food poisoning.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table III.

Smallpox No case was notified during the year.

Diphtheria No case of diphtheria was notified during the year. 307 children in the Health Area received a complete course of immunisation during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in all cases. 397 children received reinforcing injections, the diphtheria-tetanus vaccine being used in these cases.

Poliomyelitis No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 316 persons in the Health Area received a complete course of oral vaccination, and a further 560 a reinforcing dose.

Measles One case of this disease was notified during the year.

Vaccination against measles has now taken its place as one of the routine protective procedures in the schedule of infant vaccination, and is offered during the second year of life, usually following the completion of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and poliomyelitis vaccination courses at the age of one year. It continues to be available also for older children who have not already had this protection, or suffered from the infection.

During the year, 286 children were vaccinated against the disease in the whole of the Health Area.

Acute Meningitis No cases of this disease were notified during the year.

Food Poisoning No cases were notified during 1972.

During the summer season, a number of cases of acute gastro-enteritis occurred at intervals at one hotel in the District. Adults and children were affected. Although the symptoms were distressing, the illness was not severe, and lasted usually 24 - 72 hours. No cases required hospital admission.

No connection with articles of food could be established. Bacteriological examination of sewer swabs from the hotel, and of numerous faecal specimens from guests and members of the staff were consistently negative for organisms of the salmonella and shigella groups, the groups of germs responsible for bacterial food poisoning and dysentery respectively. A proportion of the



specimens were also subjected to investigation for the presence of virus, again with negative results. In spite of this, the symptoms appeared more likely to be due to a virus infection than to one of bacterial origin. The negative findings of the virus investigations do not rule this out, as this type of investigation may not be successful, even when virus is present.

The hotel management, which was most co-operative, was given help and advice in the steps necessary to deal with the situation. Advice was also given on the modernisation of the kitchen and of food storage facilities and equipment.

### Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>
Cases on Register				
31.12.71	6	2	4	1
No. of cases notified				
during the year	-	-	-	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	-	-
Cases removed	1	-	1	-
Total on Register				
31.12.72	5	2	3	1

B.C.G. Vaccination continues to be offered to all susceptible contacts of known cases, most of whom avail themselves of this protection.

The scheme for B.C.G. Vaccination of susceptible senior school children was continued by the County Council during the year, again with a good response.

### OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung .. During 1972, there were eight male and seven female deaths from all forms of cancer. Two male deaths were due to cancer of the lung. The total of deaths from this cause since 1949 is 48 male and 16 female deaths. During the same period, there have been 159 male and 170 female deaths from all forms of cancer.

Cancer of the Cervix The County Council's Cervical Cytology Clinic at Launceston continued to operate during the year.

Women between the ages of 30 and 55 years are accepted for this form of examination. The clinic at Launceston serves the whole of the Health Area and beyond. During the year, 738 specimens were submitted to the laboratory. One case of the pre-cancerous stage of the disease was discovered, and a number of minor conditions were identified. The patient's general practitioner received a copy of the laboratory report, and arranges for appropriate treatment.



The national scheme for the conduct of this form of investigation envisages the repetition of this type of test for each individual after an interval of five years. The system of recall, started towards the end of 1971, continued during 1972, and a proportion of the total number tested attended for this repeat examination.

The Cervical Cytology Clinic at Stratton Hospital continued to operate during the year. This is independent of the County Council's arrangements, and the figures above refer only to the County Council's clinic.



TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1972

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Other</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for Previous Years

Year	Population	<u>Births</u>		<u>Deaths</u>			
		Number	Crude Rate	<u>Under 1 year</u>		<u>All ages</u>	
				Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1968	5,280	63	11.9	1	16.0	95	18.0
1969	5,330	67	12.6	1	15	79	14.8
1970	5,300	51	9.6	-	-	95	17.9
1971	5,540	56	10.1	-	-	92	16.6
1972	5,630	64	11.4	2	31	102	18.1

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apl. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

Measles      -   -   -   -   -   1   -   -   -   -   -   -   1







TABLE IV

Summary of Public Health Inspector's Inspections

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of visits</u>	<u>Number of defects</u>	
		<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Drainage	31	12	12
Keeping of animals	30	3	3
Swill boiling	9	-	-
Public conveniences	109	4	4
Refuse collection and disposal	173	23	23
Rodent and pest control	136	10	10
Infectious diseases	33		
Petroleum Acts	39	2	2
Complaints	-		
House inspections	66	15	15
L.A. House Inspections	70	-	-
Improvement Grants	363		
Rent Acts & Housing Act, 1969 S.45	33		
Camp Sites	63	21	21
Factories	29	3	3
Offices Shops & Railway Premises Act	102	10	10
Mobile Food Shops	12		
Meat Inspection	-		
Food shops	72	20	20
Bakehouses	5	2	2
Food preparation premises	90	8	8
Ice-cream sampling	95	3	3
Water Supplies	31		

Total visits of all kinds made by the  
Public Health Inspector during the year .. 1,591



APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the  
Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of Provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	13	-	-
i) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	14	-	-
i) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1	2	-	-
TOTAL	40	29	-	-

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2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4)	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	1	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	1	1	-

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

N I L

